Modern City Hospital Is Woman's World

There Are Seven Women To Every Male Worker

"Don't Feed Me Please," reads the card pinned to the back of wee Karen Johnson, age 2, who is on a special diet at the moment. It's a lucky thing Karen can't read yet. Mrs. F. G. Aldous of the hospital auxiliary frequently visits the children's ward to talk to the children and to hear them read to her. Judy Petrie, 3, is a friend of Karen's—and as a matter of fact she can't read yet either.

By EILEEN LEAROYD

A hospital is a woman's world.

Contrary to the romantic images reflected through the shades of motion pictures, there are approximately seven women to every man employed in a big city hospital.

Out of 155 different job descriptions and a total establishment of 650 people, the Royal Jubilee Hospital employs 550 women—only 100 men.

If you add to this the student nurses, who number 175, this brings us up to 725 women—and still only 100 men.

Beginning with the nurses, there are 225 graduates in the hospital plus the students, making a total of 400.

There are 80 nurses' aides. Nurses' aides are employed as "unskilled" help but they perform many of the functions previously done by student nurses. They change and make beds, change flowers, disinfect rooms and frequently comfort the patients.

There is one lady pharmacist, Mrs. E. Purdy.

There are five physiotherapists.

There are two social workers, the senior of which is Miss Margaret Bradley. These ladies perform a variety of services from advising families of patients, to treating emotional problems of the patients themselves. In former days, Mrs. Bradley would have been called "The Lady Almoner" for she also arranges financial aid in special cases.

There are 23 women working in the pathological laboratory, and 21 either graduated or studying to become X-ray technicians.

There are 80 women in the "dietary service" which includes waitresses, kitchen maids and cooks—and eight dietitians.

Twenty-three girls are employed in the admitting office and 11 are telephone operators. In the nurses' home there are five home matrons who supervise the students. There are two elevator operators.

One most important unit of the hospital is the medical records office where complete files are kept on the history of every operation and on every patient who has ever entered the hospital. Twelve women work here as librarians.

Behind the vivid life of a hospital, behind the ambulance sirens, the busy interns, the tragedy and the joy, behind the rustle of starched skirts—lies the laundry.

One and a half million pounds of laundry is done at the Jubilee Hospital every year. It averages out to about 6,000 pounds a day on the basis of a five-day week.

Head of the laundry is Mr. William Haslam and some 33 girls work in his vast soapsuds and steam kingdom.

Hospital laundry techniques are as carefully watched as operating room techniques, for here is a potential source of infection.

Water temperatures up to 180 germ-killing degrees are used. Apart from the normal formula of water and soap there are extra water flushes, extra alkali is added and sometimes bleach.

At the end of the operation, sour (acid) is used to neutralize the alkali. With linen washes, oil is added to stop linting, for staphylococci clings to lint.

It's a big job to kill the bacteria without destroying the linen.

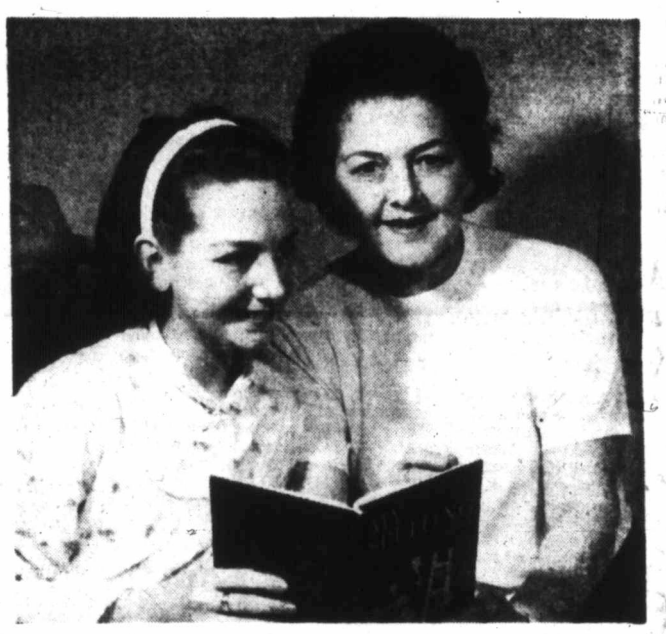
In the children's ward there is yet another woman—the school teacher, Mrs. Mary Furlough, who is prepared to teach everything from pre-primary to high school work.

More women volunteers from the hospital's junior auxiliary run what is called the Mobile Shop.

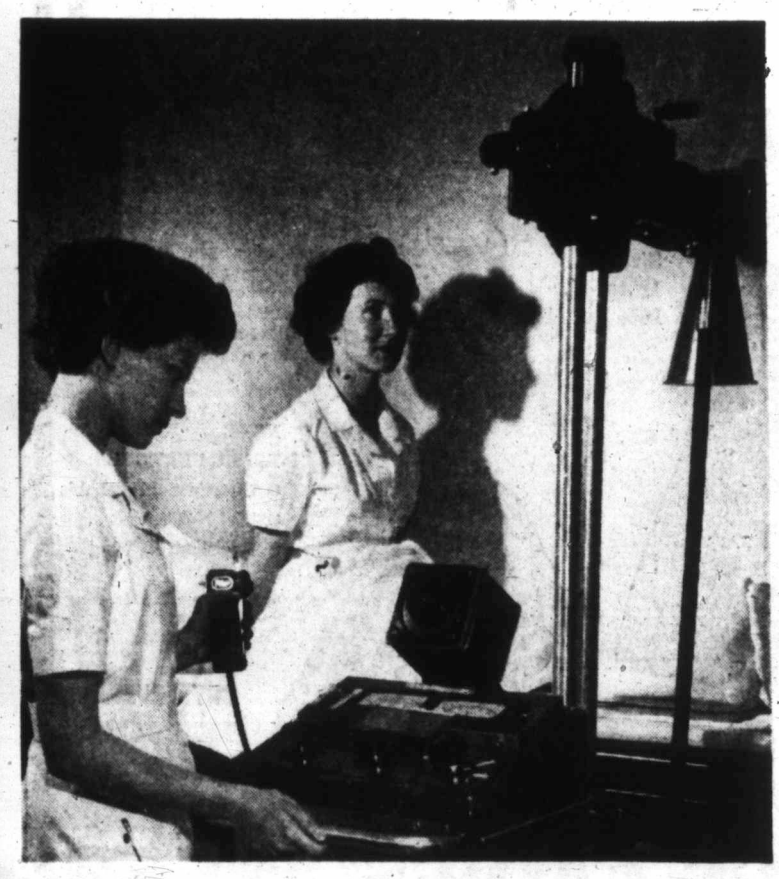
It's a woman's world—dedicated to service.

Colonist Photos by Jim Ryan

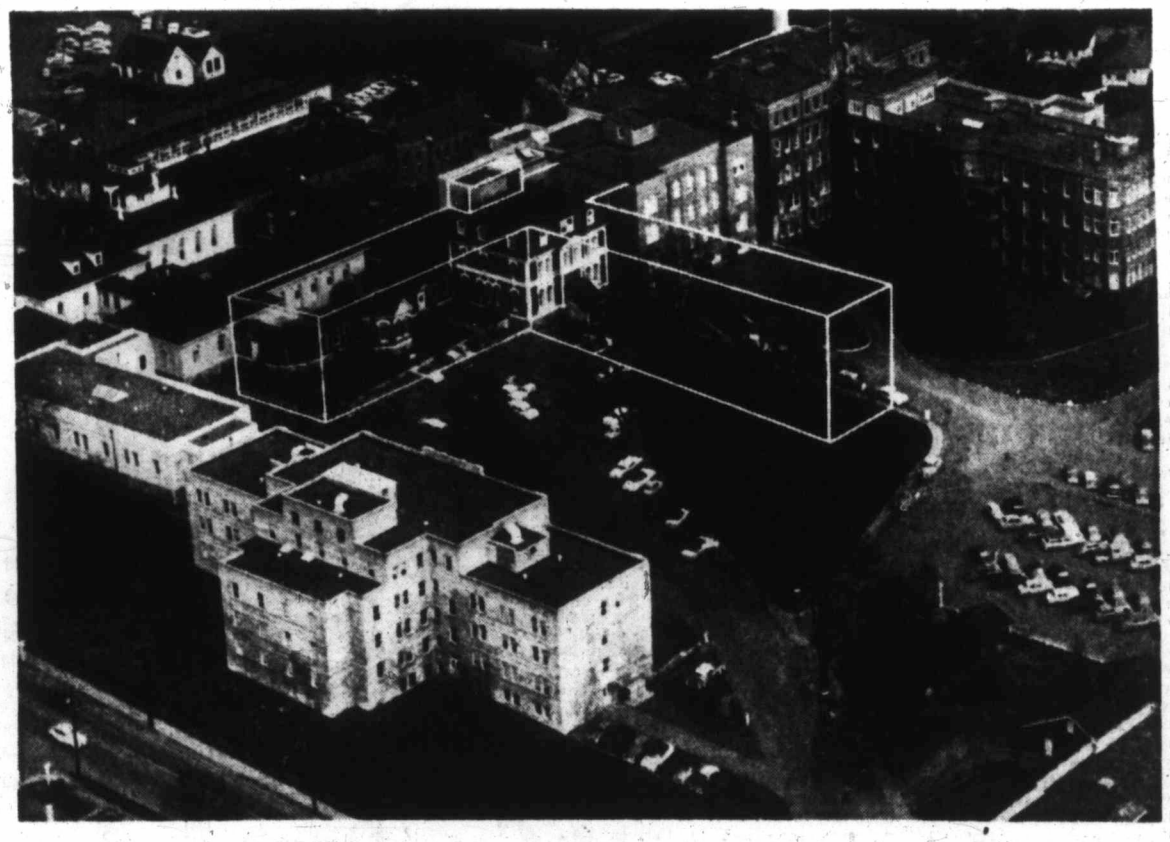
Behind those beautifully starched nurses' skirts lies — the laundry. Thirty-three women work in the hospital's soapy kingdom where 1,500,000 pounds of laundry is put through yearly. Three on the left are Mrs. Kay Cooper, Mrs. Kay Maren, Mrs. Freda Holst. At the rough dryers, front to back, are Miss Beth Spouse, Mrs. Dorothy Harris, Miss Joyce Stobbart and Miss Margaret Willoughby.



There is no getting away from school—even in the hospital. Lee Sutton, age 12 and in grade seven at Lansdowne Junior High, has lessons from Mrs. Mary Furlough, hospital full-time teacher.



Vivien Dopson, left, and Karen Child are both studying to become X-ray technicians. They are practising positioning for a foot examination. A year from now the girls will be RTs—Registered Technicians—with a degree that is treated reciprocally between Canada, Great Britain and the U.S. Including students, there are 21 technicians in the department.



Badly-Needed Wing Will Cost $410,000

Old buildings on the site will be demolished to make way for the addition. Campaign to raise $410,000 in public subscriptions by April 30 is now in progress. First week of the drive netted a total of $104,000. Remainder of the money—just over $2,000,000, will come from grants by federal, provincial and municipal governments. The new unit will provide 190 modern beds, a net gain of 100 beds, after allowing for closing of old non-acceptable medical beds in the frame unit at the rear. B.C. Cancer Society is putting up money for construction of a new cancer clinic and also for the cobalt bomb heading the list of modern equipment. The wing will also contain a new X-ray department and an enlarged emergency department. Three more badly needed operating theatres are provided including one special room for chest and neurological surgery. No theatres have been added to the surgical suite in 30 years except for a special eye surgrey. New administrative offices will consolidate administrative functions. New medical library will assist with teaching programs.